Price Twopence 3s. per annum post free

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 332. MAY, 1934.

HIGHBROW. MIDDLEBROW. LOWBROW.

"Our souls thirst for God."—PSALM XLII., 2.

CONTENTS:

NOTES AND NEWS ... ... Front Page
UNITED TEMPERANCE MEETING 50
ULSTER UNITARIAN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION ... 51
POETRY WORTH READING—R. N. Cross ... 52
WOMEN'S LEAGUE 53
OBITUARIES 54
REPORTS. 55
HISTORICAL NOTES—H. J. F. Orr 58

NOTES AND NEWS.

"Give us God! Give us God!" George Borrow, whose name is well-known for his century-old books on gypsy life and the Bible in Spain, tells of some wandering tinkers who insisted on taking him for a minister and talking to him about their souls. "I am neither priest nor minister," said I, "and can only say: Lord have mercy upon you!" Then getting up I flung the children some money and departed. "We do not want your money, sir," screamed the women after me, "we have plenty of money. Give us God! Give us God." Thus opens the first of a new series of books, entitled, "The Return to God":—(1) "An Anglican View," by Canon Guy Rogers, Rector of Birmingham; (2) "An Anglo-Catholic View," by Sidney Dark; (3) "A Catholic and Roman View," by Father Leslie J. Walker, S.J. They are very powerful books, written with great earnestness and sincerity, each writer being convinced of the soundness of his position, and alert to the chaotic conditions and needs of the world to-day, which they agree is due to the fact that God for all practical purposes has been shut out of human thought and life as a negligible quantity. "It is time that all the writers—highbrow, middlebrow and lowbrow, who cater for our mental appetites—realised that the world is getting tired of the various attitudes which they assume to God . . . . . and to teach us about life with God brought back into it." 'God is full of loving-kindness and tender mercy, and His resources are available to break down our Roman exclusiveness, Orthodox worldliness, Anglican correctness, and Non-Conformist efficiency." "God is not a Mount Everest to be explored." Sidney Dark, a well-known writer, states that the literature of religion, in common with all other literature, is almost entirely written by professionals, a notable exception is that of "The Pilgrim's Progress." Sidney Dark writes for the Anglo-Catholic point of view. Father Leslie J. Walker, S.J., M.A. (Oxon. and Lond.), presents "A Roman and Catholic View." He is thoroughly conversant with movements in the other Great Religions of the world, and is no doubt perfectly competent at short notice to transform himself into a Unitarian lecturer, in accordance with the training of a Jesuit, part of which is in debate to be able to take the part of the "Devil's advocate."

* * *

The Presbyteries have for the last year or so had upon them a good deal of responsibility in arranging for the supply of pulpits, due to vacancies or the break-down in health of ministers. Newry is being well served during its interim by an experienced temporary pastor; Clough has the advantage of retaining in the same capacity its retired minister, who is acting voluntarily and has been appointed caretaker of the Manse. York Street, we hope, will soon have its minister restored in full health and strength.

* * *

The Rev. J. McNeil resumed duty at Downpatrick on Easter Sunday, with the congratulations and good wishes of the Non-Subscribing Church.

* * *

Antrim Congregation shows signs of new life and increase of membership.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to the Manager, Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

UNITED TEMPERANCE MEETING.

The Moderator (Rev. J. J. Magill, B.A.) presided over the United Temperance Meeting, which was held in the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, York Street, on the 5th April. The meeting was well attended. The Moderator voiced in general sympathy and sorrow at the absence of the Rev. A. L. Agnew, D.D., who was prevented from attending the meeting owing to illness, and expressed the hope for his speedy recovery.

The well-known Temperance speaker, the Rev. T. M. Johnstone, B.A., Convenor of the Temperance Committee of the General Assembly and Moderator-elect, delivered a most powerful and eloquent lecture, holding the attention of the whole audience for fully an hour. The speaker began his lecture with a reference to the word "Temperance," which he defined as Self Control, and went on to refer to the Drink Traffic. Why do we oppose alcohol? Because it is a harmful commodity. It is a narcotic drug according to science, which also defines it as a poison. Poisons have a place in the chemist's shop, but alcohol is sold as a beverage, and for that reason the speaker took up warfare against it.

Many people ask what harm does alcohol do? The Rev. T. M. Johnstone dwelt at length with the harmful effects of even small doses of drink.

Firstly—Alcohol had a harmful effect on the human body. The human body was made up of millions of tiny cells, and the effect of alcohol was to break down these cells and get into the blood stream. It robbed the body of nourishment. In addition,, it attacked the higher side of the brain, the part which controls the life, and intoxicates people and renders them irresponsible.

Secondly—Drink was the greatest Social Monster. In Ulster there used to be about fifteen thousand drunkards. Conditions have somewhat improved in late years. Yet even in these days there is still much temperance work to be done. Three and a quarter million pounds are still being spent annually by one and a quarter millions of people on this poison. What of the drunkard's children! There were about twenty thousand such children in the province, and for their sakes we must be on the side of Temperance. The Liquor Trade was alive to the importance of the child, and was seeking to win them as potential customers.

Thirdly—Nothing was so disorganising in social life and so responsible for economic ills as the Drink Traffic. Often people speak of the amount of work which the drink trade creates, but the lecturer maintained that for everyone who gets a job through expenditure on drink, ten people would get jobs if the money were spent on houses, clothing, food and other necessaries of life.

Fourthly—A new menace had arisen in our civilization. Last year seven thousand people were killed on the roads of Great Britain—nearly 20 people a day. Little had been done to deal with this holacust of the roads. The lecturer held that more than fifty per cent. of accidents were due to drink in some form or other. Alcohol slowed the working of the brain and made the motor driver less alert, less able to act quickly in an emergency. At all enquiries into these accidents little was done to get at the real facts.

Lastly, the lecturer dealt with the old objection that alcohol was urged and inculcated in the Bible. The word wine was much used in the Bible, but, as used, it was a generic term, and was not to be confounded with the liquid that drove people mad.

At the conclusion of the lecture, the Moderator expressed the thanks of the audience, and a hearty resolution of thanks was moved by Mr. C. J. McKisack and seconded by Mr. R. M. Laird, and carried by acclamation.

By the kindness of the York Street Congregation a Social Hour was afterwards held in the Church Hall, and a large number of country visitors and others were provided with refreshments and enjoyed the hospitality. A very successful and enjoyable meeting closed with an expression of thanks to the congregation and friends at York Street.

THE DIVINE WISDOM:

"One God and Father of all."—Eph. iv. 6.
"The One Existence whence all proceeds."

Correspondence—The Editor has received a letter questioning the Presbyterian system of Church government. He does not consider that it is within his province to open out a discussion on the subject.

* * *

Published on the **Fourth** Saturday of the month. Copy should be in before the **19th** at the latest. Editor: Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

ULSTER UNITARIAN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The aunual sermons in connection with the above Association were preached by the Rev. A. W. Vallance, B.A., Pendleton, Manchester, on Sunday, April 8th, in the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast. The sermons were powerful and eloquent, and the congregations were impressed with the personality of such an exceedingly promising young minister, whose whole demeanour indicated a well-trained mind in a well-trained body; and the hope was expressed that in the future the way might be opened out to have him here with us in Ireland.

The Moderator presided at the public meeting in the Central Hall on Monday afternoon, and introduced Mr. Vallance as one who nine years ago had been his guest at Rademon Manse. Mr. Vallance spoke upon the Fellowship of Youth in the Churches of the Assembly in England. Evidently there wasn't anything about it he didn't know, and kept his audience interested because of his own apparent keen interest. The annual report was submitted by the Secretary, and showed a large amount of work done during the year, and the useful propaganda of the Postal Mission.

The resolution adhering to the objects of the Association was proposed by Rev. John Barron, who said the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church was just what its name implied. The U.U.C.A. had its own particular mandate, and in the North of Ireland its work was very necessary. "The Right of Private Judgment" was the foundation of Protestantism. Verbally Protestants agreed with it; but the declaration once having been made it was to a great extent denied by them in practice, hence the vigorous Fundamentalism that the U.U.C.A. was up against. The R.C. Church stoutly opposed this principle as subservient to dogma. Orthodoxy traced its origin back to the rebellion in Heaven before the creation of the world, when Satan as leader of the rebellion was turned from an Archangel of light to be the Prince of darkness.

God made Satan,
And Satan made sin;
God made Hell
And put Satan in.

From that sprang "the whole scheme of salvation."

Rev. W. G. Marsden seconded the resolution, and wondered what was the matter with the denomination that it didn't grow. Christian Science was going ahead by leaps and bounds.

The Rev. J. A. Kelly spoke on the necessity for keeping a purely doctrinal Association apart from the N.S.P. Church, and leaving the Church to develop along Presbyterian lines.

Other speakers were—Messrs. Thomas, McKisack, and Leyland. The audience after the meeting found a very nice tea prepared, for which cordial thanks were rendered to the ladies who had provided it.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

We would remind the scholars in our Sunday schools who intend to participate in the essay competition, that all essays must be in the hands of the Convenor not later than Tuesday, 15th May next. The successful entrants will receive their awards at the Annual Sunday School Conference, which will be held at Downpatrick on Saturday, 2nd June. The speaker at the Conference will be the Rev. Thomas Munn of Cairncastle.

The following are the subjects for the Essay Competition:—

I. "The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant: What does it teach?"
II. "My idea of Heaven."
III. What can I do to help my Sunday School?
IV. Why is there a League of Nations?
V. "Honesty."
VI. "The Character of Jacob."

THE LARGER HOPE.

I have sometimes wondered how modern orthodoxy can speak of Christ as the Saviour of the world and yet in the same breath assert that He does *not* save it, that He does not succeed in saving one in ten thousand of its inhabitants, and has to yield all the rest to the devil! Would that proportion be considered a successful effort if we were speaking of any kind of human attempt? Such a doctrine is a blasphemy; cast it out from your stock of religious ideas. We bring a grander gospel and we preach a nobler creed than that, for we know that this evolution will succeed and not fail—that it will be a grand and glorious success, and that every soul in it shall eventually attain its goal.—C.W.L.

POETRY WORTH READING.

I. The English Lyrics; II. Love Lyrics, by H. Harold Johnson. Basil Blackwood. 2/6 each.

The Rev. H Harold Johnson won for himself a distinguished position in our ministry in England; some of us knew that he possessed deep and true poetic and religious feeling with a gift of sincere and simple expression. But few of us were aware of the wells of happy inspiration that for forty years of his life have been bubbling up within him, and to drink of which is a refreshment and a joy. These two little volumes, sent forth in such pleasing and attractive dress by their Oxford publishers, are the first fruits of a series which will run to eight little books, and which promises to be a most welcome contribution to the lyrical output of our time. In them we get away from all the discontents of this tormented era with its infernal complexes, and its eternal problems, and are brought into the clear and healthy air of Everlasting Nature, Love and Home, with their strong, simple and perennial emotions, recollected in tranquility, purged of the fickle and the frail.

Mr. Johnson is in love with the beautiful things that make England beloved, her mountains and lanes and hedgerows with the wild roses, her meadows where the kine graze peacefully, and her homesteads where the ministers of pure and constant affection make "holy ground." And he is so moved by it all that his art can re-awaken his own fresh and spontaneous feeling in the reader.

Take this sample:

I know a land of the lark and the pine,
Four leagues or more from London Town,
Where the kine brood on soft uplands
That stretch to the rolling down.

Where the gorse burns gold, and a tender blue
Smiles, and the clouds droop, silver grey;
Where the peewit dips with a wailing cry,
And the lark soars glad as day.

And oh for a sight of the green of Spring
Away and away from London Town,
With a warm mist o'er the soft uplands
That stretch to the rolling down.

It is a pretty conceit which compares Spring with a Potter working on the dull clay:

While, hidden in the desolate earth,
Fell Winter's cerements conceal
Spring at the central Heart; who turns
Blossomings on her wheel.

The Love Lyrics sing of Mother and Home, Courtship, Love and Parting, and of Fair Women, famed in literature, and the interpretation given always reveals the finer realities of common things.

But here, where truth and home and love
The orbit are in which you move,
You seem a blessed being sent
To bring a man and child content.

When I do enter at our door,
I bow your graciousness before,
For I do know that I have found
What unto me is Holy Ground.

Mr. Johnson can in few lines sound the tragic note in love as well as its interwoven harmony, but these two volumes leave us with the good, the fair and the happy singing above all the rest. Every reader will find them good companions for the way, and be the better for keeping their company.—R.N.C.

THE COMBER UNITY PLAYERS.

The players have had a busy season. In November they produced very successfully Irish comedies and "Over at the Vicarage." On March 28th another Irish comedy and "The Luck of the Draw," a three act comedy were acted. The choir held a ceilidh under the direction of the choir-master, Mr. Wm. Munn. For March 28th the sale of tickets had to be stopped, so great was the demand, and a repeat performance arranged for the following Wednesday. The acting of the players is uniformly high and good. The more experienced players are outstandingly good, and it is a pleasure to record the return of players like Mrs. Burgess and Mr. John Young, who took part in the plays 14 and 10 years ago before their marriages. Mr. Ivan Davies and Mr. Richard Dugan made very successful debuts. "The Luck of the Draw" concerns the schemes set on foot after the sending of a telegram announcing the drawing of a horse to a butler who, in the meantime, had sold this ticket to his master, keeping another one for himself. Mr. John Young as the master who had risen in the world from being an employee in a pickle factory, was all that could be desired. His ambitious wife, Miss Ella McQuaide, was good also—her daughter, Miss Florence Ferguson, is steadily improving. Mr. Jas. Watson had a difficult part to play and did it well as the partner in the firm, and the lover of his partner's daughter. Ivan Davies acted in a natural way the part of a mercenary "lord." The heaviest parts were those of the butler and footman, whose scheme to regain the winning ticket is the theme of the play. Mr. Hubert Smiley, as the butler, was excellent, and Mr

Glynne Davies supported him well. Miss Sadie Stewart—the sender of the bogus telegram—gave a very finished characterisation of the maid getting her revenge on the butler who had reported her to the mistress the week before. The Irish comedy was of a different type of play entirely. It concerned the fortunes of a lone bachelor and the excitement caused by an uncle giving out the yarn that his nephew must marry a widow within a week or lose £5,000. Mr. Neville Petts was the woman-hater who wished to be left alone. He played well, and with Mr. Matthew Wilson, the elderly deaf uncle, and Mr. Robt. Smiley, the other matchmaker, they made a splendid trio and their acting was of a very high standard. The women's parts in this play were small, but were good character parts, and Miss Helen Ferguson as the colleen who loved to tease the woman-hater, and Miss Sadie Stewart, as the widow the match-makers had settled on for Daniel, each rendered her part excellently. Mr. Richard Dugan, a young recruit, who had to act the part of a bogus lawyer, made a very good beginning. The choir dressed as Irish peasants and colleens, young and old, farmers, sailors and parson, made a very colourful scene. Mr Wm. Munn, the old farmer, welcomed the party on April 4th. Mr. Munn had the company of Mr. Spence, who gave airs from his fiddle, to which the company danced. Mr. McCormick and the Rev. J. Glynne Davies gave a duet. Mrs. J. K. Murphy, a recent winner at the Londonderry Feis, sang a solo beautifully. Mr. Neville Petts, Mr. Jack Munn, Mr. H. McCormick, Miss Jeanie Adams and Mr. Gerald Petts all sang solos, the rest of the choir joining in the choruses. "The Meeting of the Waters" was sung by the choir most effectively. The accompaniments were played very artistically by Miss Isobel Stewart. Music between the plays was given by Mr. Gerald Petts and Mr. Gillespie. Miss Jean Davison and Miss S. Stewart, two young performers, danced Irish reels and jigs with great proficiency. On April 4th "Napoleon and the Triplets" was added to the bill. Mr. Burgess, Miss Rosemary Ferguson, Messrs. Robert and Hubert Smiley and Mr. Glynne Davies repeated the triumph of their previous performance in November.

"I fear the devil worst when gown and cassock,
Or in the lack of them, old Calvin's cloak,
Conceals his cloven hoof."
—From "Peveril of the Peak."

WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

"First House" and Mountpottinger—On Wednesday, 21st February, the two Branches joined again in having a Lecture by Mr. R. T. Welch, M.Sc., M R I.A. The subject chosen this year was "Beautiful Shells", there were many very delightful pictures thrown on the screen. Our Lecturer drew attention to the wonderful formation of some of the shells. Three Bundoran necklaces made a very pretty picture, the shells are threaded together by Bundoran peasant women, and sold for a very modest sum. An interesting abnormality is the left-handed spiral shell of Helix memoratis, which is very abundant in Bundoran, Co. Donegal. Mrs J. H. Ewbank presided and expressed the deep appreciation of both Branches to Mr. Welch for lecturing to us the third year in succession. Miss Armstrong, on behalf of First House Branch, passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Welch and Miss K. Forrest on behalf of Mountpottinger seconded same. K.F.

Mountpottinger—The Tenth Session of the Branch closed on Monday, 19th March. A very successful "Kitchen Shower Sale" opened the evening's proceedings, which was followed by an enjoyable chat and cup of tea. To celebrate the completion of the tenth year a special programme had been arranged. We were fortunate in having Miss Betty Norman as elocutionist; her rendering of "The mother o' six," "The Newry Bear" and "Drowning the dog," was greatly enjoyed by all. Miss Elva Orr delighted her audience in four songs, "When all was young" (Faust), "Little Town in the Ould County Down", "Trees" and "Serenatta," (Tolselli). Three humorous recitations by Mr. Tom Sloan was an unexpected and pleasing feature of the programme and thoroughly appreciated. Master Gerald McCullough, who has a sweet soprano voice, sang three songs in an impressive manner. Mr. Nat Wallace kindly acted as accompanist, assisted by Master Bassett McCullough. There was a good attendance of members and friends. Mrs. J. H. Ewbank presided during the evening and at the close thanked the artistes for their kindness in affording us all so much pleasure. Mr Sloan on behalf of the artistes suitably replied.
K.F.

First Church Branch, Rosemary Street—Our winter session closed on March 21st, when the Annual Meeting was held in the

Central Hall. The annual reports showed that the work of the branch had been steadily carried on throughout the year. A number of interesting talks had been given by such well-known speakers as Miss Hutton, Mrs. Moore, Miss Praeger, H.R.I.A., Mrs. Hume, O.B.E., and Mrs. Mayes. The needlework section has contributed the usual Xmas gift of twelve garments to the Domestic Mission and 99 knitted vests have been sent by our members to the World's Service League. Donations of money have been given at Xmas to two of our local hospitals and the Mission, also to the Miss McKisack Memorial Fund and the Girls' Social Service Club. We have lost by death during the year our two oldest members, Miss Bruce and Miss McTear, whose unfailing interest and help will be greatly missed by our branch.—E.J.L.

OBITUARIES.

Victor Gordon Jennings.

It is with deep regret we have to record the death on April 10th of Mr. Jennings at Airmount, King's Road, Belfast, the residence of his nephew, Mr. H. J. F. Orr, where he received every care in his last illness from Mr and Mrs. Orr. For the last year or two his health had not been good and this interfered with his attendance at the First Church, Belfast, of which he was a most loyal member and supporter, serving for periods on the General Committee, and where he was held in high respect by his fellow members, who have now to deplore his loss. It also meant the withdrawal of his active service from the Committees through which he had placed his long experience and valued council at the disposal of the Non-Subscribing Church and its affairs. But he could not cease to be interested in, and give financial support to, the activities of the Unitarian Community, whose faith was his religious strength and inspiration thoughout life, and which he was a worthy representative. We shall miss his modest, kindly and helpful inspiration. Mr. Jenning's affiliations with our movement, went deep, through old family connexion. His maternal gandfather, Dr. Gordon of Saintfield, was a leading layman in the cause of Non-Subscription in those parts a hundred years ago, and his father was one of the first members of Ravara Church, while his elder brother John was minister for a time inour Crumlin and Warrenpoint Churches.

During a long business career of 40 years in Glasgow, Mr. Jennings belonged to the St. Vincent Street Unitarian Congregation, and for most of that period acted on the Committee, and he was also for many years Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Unitarian Association. In Australia as well as Britain our churches benefitted from his liberality. He had visited Australia, twice toured the United States, and spent holidays in various European countries,which showed his wide interest, outlook and sympathies.

The funeral took place to Dundonald Cemetery, and the Rev. J. H. Ewbank officiated in the absence of the Rev. R. Nicol Cross of the First Church.

Mr. James Frame, Ballygowan.

We desire to record the passing away from our circle of Mr. James Frame, merchant, of Ballygowan, Co. Down, a highly respected member of our Killinchy congregation, which took place on April 9th, 1934, aged 83 years. Of late, in spite of occasional painful attacks, his health, in view of his advanced age, was comparatively active. Mr. Frame was a scion of the Frame family, who are well known and respected in Moneyrea Church; but during many years past was a member and contributor of the Killinchy congregation. He was an active business man throughout his long life, was highly respected by the very large number of those with whom he came in contact; his word was always to be relied on by the many close business acquaintances, who never doubted his straightforward character and ability and had experience of his integrity. Those who admired him had confidence in him; but his good will so kindly extended did not roam so far and wide afield as to include those who did not appeal to his sense of right. Our friend was a staunch Unitarian of the Non-Subscribing type, as also is Mrs. Frame, his helpmate, who is now advanced in years. In her bereavement much sympathy is extended to her, and also to the sons and daughters who were able to soothe the last illness of the head of their household. A large gathering assembled to pay the last tribute of respect to a noted citizen. The funeral took place in the family burying-ground in Moneyrea, the Rev. D. J. Williams, J. Dare Davies, in the house, and Mr. McLernon and D. J. Williams officiating at the graveside.

"Christ is not less divine because His brethren are also divine."—Annie Besant.

REPORTS.

Domestic Mission—The Easter Sunday morning service, which was given by the Sunday School children, revealed careful and devoted work by teachers and pupils. The programme, consisting of music, readings, recitations and prayers, was greatly enjoyed by the congregation. Of the subjects chosen for debate during the past month two proved of special interest and these were—"Emigration" and "War". Keen discussion followed indicating extensive reading and serious thinking. The Sunday afternoon "Study Circle" has followed for some weeks discussions on "The Sermon on the Mount". A new membership canvass is now taking place which will conclude with a social evening early in May. Two very enjoyable rambles were organized by the Social Club during the Easter holidays. A special "Mothers' Day" service will be held on Sunday morning, 6th May. The purpose of this service is to honour motherhood. The emblem to be worn is a carnation, *Red* for the mothers living and *White* for those who have passed over. Miss Montgomery, leader of the Social Service Girls' Clubs, is busy in preparation for the approaching concert, which will bring to a close another successful season's activities. We acknowledge with sincere thanks the receipt of two parcels of clothing from Mrs W. Newman. The Sunday School has added a number of new pupils to the membership roll during the month a tribute to the devoted interest of our teachers in the welfare of the children.

W. E.

Comber—The Annual Congregational meeting was held on Tuesday, February 27th. Mr. David Munn, J.P. presided. There was a large attendance of members and friends. Tea was generously provided by the Right Hon. John M. Andrews, D.L., M.P., and Mrs. Andrews. This was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all present. The Hon. Secretary's report was read by Mr. F. J. Orr, Solicitor. It recorded a year of steady progress in every department of our congregational life. Special mention was made by the chairman of the most generous gift of the Electric light installation in church and school by the Right Hon. Lord Justice Andrews and Mrs. Andrews. The hon. treasurer's statement of accounts was submitted by the Right Hon. Lord Justice Andrews. This showed a small adverse balance, due chiefly to another of our investments proving unproductive. A number of members were enrolled during the year, and the free-will offering scheme has increased substantially our annual income. Mr. Abernethy reported a credit balance in respect of the Sunday School and benevolunt funds. Mr. A. Orr had a cheery word to say respecting the choir fund, with its credit balance of £100, which sum is now invested in War Loan. Prizes was awarded to members of the League of Loyalty, and these were distributed by Mrs. Davies. Votes of thanks were accorded to the choir, the choir-master and the organist, to the Sunday School teachers and to the minister and his wife. Mr. Munn was heartily thanked for presiding. Following the business meeting the choir rendered Scottish songs and choruses in excellent style, and the Unity Players gave a sketch entitled—"The young man from Rathmines". This brought to an end a very happy and successful meeting.

Moneyrea—The new Session House has been beautifully furnished in oak by the Misses Porter and the members of the Committee, and a handsome armchair was presented by Mr. and Mrs. R. Dugan.

Clough Sabbath School—The Annual Prize Distribution and Social was held on the 9th March in the Church Hall, kindly lent for the occasion by the Presbyterian Kirk Session. This event has in recent years grown immensely popular as was shown by the large attendance of the elders, who thoroughly enjoyed the long and varied programme given by the scholars, under the guidence and tuition of Miss Vera Nelson, Miss Mollie Hay, Miss Sadie Donnan and Miss M. Fisher (organist). After a substantial tea the minister (Rev. Jas. Shaw Brown) in the course of his address congratulated teachers and scholars on the work and the attendance for the year, and called upon Mrs. Shaw Brown to present the prizes—13 children received book prizes, 6 being for perfect attendance at school and 3 for perfect attendance at both church and school. Owing to the long distances apart the scholars were trained in three groups and the programme was arranged into three districts as follows:—*Annadorn District*—Duets, Stanley and Cyreno Nelson; Quartetts, Lily and Sadie Newell, Martha and Joyce Murtagh; Dialogues, Elsie and Stanley Nelson; the Fairy Play "Cinderella" by Mary and Nan McCoubrey, Elsie Nelson, Sadie and Lily Newell, Martha and Joyce Murtagh, Stanley and Cyreno Nelson. *Clough District*

—Pianoforte Solo, Madge Kirkpatrick; songs, Georgina Kirkpatrick, George Hughes, Robert Kirkpatrick, Matthew Kirkpatrick and Madge Kirkpatrick; duets, Robert and Georgina Kirkpatrick, and Eileen and Sylvia Kirkpatrick; recitations, Eileen Kirkpatrick, Tom Kirkpatrick, Susie Casement, Sylvia Kirkpatrick, Carol Wilson and Betty Davies (Moneyrea). *Annsborough District*—Chorus by the Donnan family; trio, Laura and Isa Donnan and Thelma Korman; duet, Jim Donnan and Sydney McCracken; recitations, Isa Donnan, Thelma Korman and Tony Donnan; hymn, "Childhood's Years," by the Donnan family, epilogue, Tom Kirkpatrick. A most enjoyable evening closed by the company singing the National Anthem.

Ballycarry—The Annual Service of the Ballycarry Branch of the British League of Unitarian Women was held on Sunday, 11th March. The preacher on the occasion was the Rev. J. J. Magill, B.A. of Rademon, Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Church. A fairly numerous congregation (considering the stormy evening) listened with much interest to an inspiring and eloquent sermon. The musical portion of the service on the Carnegie Organ was in the skilful hands of Mr. W. J. Campbell of Whitehead. The choir trained by Miss Anderson rendered two Anthems in excellent style. The members of the League were well represented, nearly all of them being present. The Ballycarry Branch of the League has accomplished splended work for their church. Sincere thanks are due to Miss Service, president, and Mrs. Willie Millar, secretary. Under their guidance a special service was held in October. The collections raised by this service and a quilt organised by Mrs. W. J. Millar has successfully resulted in the renovation and repainting of the church, and the installation of the electric light. All this has been accomplished in addition to the organising of School Treats and other necessary work for the church. The Sunday School Treat was held as usual at the New Year under their auspices. The League is looking forward to a year of many activities in connection with their church work.

Comber—The Annual Winter Treat in connection with the Sunday School was held on February 2nd. An enjoyable tea was served by the teachers after which an entertainment was held in the school-room, the Minister presiding. The programme consisted of a fairy play, entitled "Scot and the Fairies". The young scholars who formed the cast played their part admirably and showed very careful training on the part of their teacher, Miss Eva Andrews. A recitation was given by Miss Bessie Sloan and humorous dialogue by the Misses Greta Casey and Marjorie Allen. The Gipsy Troupe under the able conductorship of Mr. W. Munn rendered several songs and chorous, which was much appreciated. This was followed by a sketch entitled "Over at the Vicarage," performed by the Unity Players under Mrs. Davies. During an interval in the programme a large number of prizes were distributed to the scholars by Mrs Robert Ferguson, Ballyrainey. These were for regular and punctual attendance at the Sunday School. Mrs. Ferguson and all those who had given there assistance during the evening were heartily thanked for their services. It was most gratifying to see such a large number of parents and friends present at the entertainment.

Banbridge—A delightful entertainment was given in the Dunbar Memorial School, organised by the Dramatic Society on Wed., 4th April. Vocal items were contributed by Miss Helen Stevenson (Break O'Day), Messrs. Hugh Chambers, and Kenneth Shooter (solos and duets), Little Miss Peggy Ratcliffe recited "Two Dolls," and "Goodnight and Goodmorning," Miss Evelyne Godding, "Betty" and "The Listener." Miss Godding recited Kipling's "The Explorer," and W. B. Yeats' "Aedh wishes for the cloths of Heaven." Two piano solos were rendered by the Misses Elsie Martin and Gretta tevenson respectively. Also Mr. Hugh Anderson gave a humorous monologue and with Mr. W J. Ratcliffe a short sketch, "Breach of Promise." Finally a farcical sketch entitled, "At Sixes and Sevens," by the Dramatic Society. All played their parts remarkably well and we are looking forward to a great future for this newly formed society. It is worth a brief summary; the Colonel and his wife were well portrayed by Mr. Wm. Matchett and Miss McKeown; The Colonel's ward and son were played to life by Miss Susan Wilson and Mr. Stewart Wilson; the grass widower was happily rendered by Mr. Russell Martin and the wonderful Mrs. "Delancy's" part was thoroughly understood by Miss Dorothy Godding. Incidentally Mr. Gordon Martin was deservedly congratulated on his stage carpentry, where he greatly improved upon the old stage. The accompaniments were

played by Mrs. Thompson. The singing of the National anthem brought a thoroughly enjoyable evening to a close.

Glenarm—Our Ladies' Guild is indefatigable. This time the Session Room has been the object of their generosity and attention. It has been redecorated and partially refurnished and now presents a most pleasing and comfortable appearance. The reopening was celebrated on April 18th, when a short service was held in the room conducted by the Minister. There was a good attendance of the congregation present. Afterwards an adjournment was made to the schoolroom where light refreshments were provided by the ladies of the Guild. This was followed by a short lecture by the minister on "The Christian Church in the 20th century." The evening concluded with a very pleasing ceremony. Miss L. Galbraith on behalf of the Ladies' Guild presented the president (Mrs. P. M. Lee) with a beautiful embroidered Irish linen afternoon tea cloth as a mark of appreciation of her services since the formation of the Guild last November. Mrs Lee suitably and feelingly acknowledged the gift.

Women's League—Ulster District.

The Service held in the First Church, Belfast, on March 22nd, was well attended. The Service was taken by Mrs. Glynne Davies, who also read Mrs. J. Moore's paper on "a Women's Peace Movement." Mr. Taylor very kindly presided at the Organ.

The Annual Business Meeting was held after the service, when the following were elected :—President, Miss Armstrong ; Vice-President, Mrs. E. Thompson ; Secretary, Miss Andrews ; Treasurer, Miss Laird ; Publicity Secretary, Mrs. F. A. Robinson.

F. A. R.

DEATH.

MOORE—April 2, 1934, at the Royal Victoria Hospital (the result of an accident) Agnes Jane, dearly beloved wife of Robert Moore, and last surviving daughter of the late Rev. William Orr McGowan, Ravara. Funeral from 39 Cherryvalley Gardens, Knock. Interred at Moneyrea.

S. & J. HEWITT

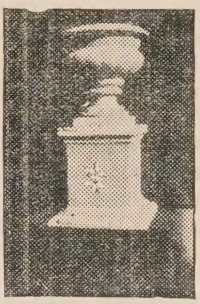
Carpenters, Builders and

General House Repairers,

150 CASTLEREAGH ROAD,

BELFAST.

PHONE 6706.



GARDEN VASES
Bird Baths,
etc., etc.
Buy Ulster Goods.
Save 30 per cent.
JOHN HEAPS,
20 RAVENSCROFT AVENUE,
CONNSWATER.
Phone : Knock 477.

— The Unitarian and —
Free Christian Laymen's League.

—:o:—

BELFAST CHAPTER

meets in the CENTRAL HALL, ROSEMARY STREET, at 8 p.m., Third Thursday of the month, October to May, inclusive.

OBJECTS (inter alia).

To encourage laymen to take a more active part in the work of the Churches.

To form a bond of union and closer co-operation between the members of the various congregations.

The Committee invite those who are not already members to join. The minimum subscription is 2/6, and further particulars may be obtained from—

MR. J. H. GILLILAND,
35 Rosemary St., Belfast, Hon. Sec.
MR. J. EDMONDSON, Jr., Asst. Hon, Sec
19 Lime Street, Belfast

R. W. MOFFETT & CO.

House and Church Decorators,
and General Contractors.

ESTIMATES FREE.

1, BOWNESS ST. & McCANDLESS ST., BELFAST.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

Items from an old Scrap Book.

By H. J. F. Orr.

"The times are changed and we with them." This translation of an old Latin saying is exemplified as one contrasts the changes in a hundred years in our newspapers and their contents. A century ago Belfast papers devoted much space to the differences between the Synod of Ulster and our Remonstrant Synod, and also to biographical sketches of leading ministers. Occasionally items of Church work illustrate great changes in that also. Take Moneyrea for example: Oct. 11th, 1829, Crossnacreevy School House,—"On yesterday evening a most instructive sermon was preached near the premises for the benefit of that institution by the Rev. W. Blakely of Moneyrea," and after a short *resume* of the address, "The audience was numerous and respectable, the collection amounted to more than double the sum expected. What made the matter more pleasant was that we witnessed Old Light and New Light Presbyterians, Seceders and Roman Catholics joining hand in hand to forward the cause of education." Another item tells of the Moneyrea Congregation striking a Poor Rate to provide support for the necessitious of the district. This was before the Poor Law was passed. Then in 1839, the Remonstrant Synod had a Committee to promote Home Missions. While we read that on Thursday, July 20th, the Synod met at 7 *a.m.* and considered a Memorial from the newly erected Strabane Congregation, a long day's session ending with preparation of an address to the Queen.

One hundred years ago it was not unusual to have present on social occasions, representatives of the Roman Church. At Rev. J. Scott Porter's installation dinner, 2nd Feb., 1832, Bishop Crolly was present and spoke. At a dinner in Kirkcubbin to Rev. M. Doherty, 1834, the parish priest, Rev. John Maguire proposed a toast—"The Chairman and the new established congregation of Ballyhemlin," while in Dunmurry at a social Rev. B. Dorrian made a lengthy speech.

Some very interesting figures are given in 1835 of the membership in our churches in claims for the *Regium Donum*. In some cases one cannot help thinking that numbers were exaggerated following the example set in many instances by the Synod of Ulster. Greyabbey, 1650, average attendance 250; Antrim, 1242, average 800; Larne, 1453, average 400; Ballycarry, 2079, no average given. Return of 1st Belfast, 450; Holywood, 605; seem more reasonable. In 1858 in a Synod report the figures for same churches: Greyabbey, *stipend payers*, 150; Antrim, members, 545; Larne, 1491; Ballycarry *stipend payers*, 118; 1st Belfast, 400; Holywood 564.

One of the first items about York Street is that of the arrangements made in September, 1840, for supplies while Mr. W. J. Blakely was in England, previous to his being ordained.

In Rev. D. Maginnis's time the Church Committee were enterprising, as one reads of a soiree being held in Wellington Hall, May Street, September, 1853; then there was a Mutual Loan Club, money being lent free of interest in sums of 50/-, repaid in weekly instalments. A Clothing Society run by a Miss Mary Coffey was of great benefit for the poorer members. The Sunday School was flourishing for on the following evening to above in the same Hall, one hundred scholars were entertained, prizes distributed, followed by games, and a concert. As Mr. Benson sung in German and M. Lebour in French, one would imagine it would be more for the elders, than for the children. In 1854 the first Annual Meeting of the Domestic Mission is recorded. Rev. A. McIntyre, missionary, who came from Dublin made a rather interesting report.

"The neighbourhood of Smithfield, Grattan Street and Green Street, presented localities requiring all the attention a Missionary could bestow, and also the districts about May's Market, the thickly inhabited districts of the Falls Road, and the numerous small lanes and streets about Kent Street, Union Street, Mustard Street and William Street, all offered opportunities of much usefulness to the Committee and Missionary."

A school was established at the corner of William Street and John Street, a Mr. John Burke and a Miss Anderson were the teachers. A shoemaker was engaged to teach his trade in the evening to the Boys' Industrial Class while the girls were taught sewing.

The evening school met three times a week, and as Miss Anderson, in addition to the day school also took charge in the evening, her salary was £16. What a contrast to present day salaries.

In 1858 report at the meeting in Fountain Street, Rev. Thomas Rutherford was the missionary, and in 1861 mention is made of Valentine Whitla's gift of the site in Stanhope Street. [TO BE CONTINUED.]

CHANNING SCHOOL,

HIGHGATE, LONDON, N. 6.

PUBLIC SCHOOL for GIRLS

CHANNING SCHOOL stands on Highgate Hill, overlooking Waterlow Park, only a few minutes' walk from Parliament Fields and Kenwood. With its hockey and netball grounds, hard and grass tennis courts and beautiful gardens it enjoys not only many of the educational advantages of the Country, but also those which easy access to London alone affords.

The course of study is arranged, so that pupils may take Oxford and Cambridge Scholarship and Entrance Examinations, and the General School, Matriculation and Intermediate Examinations of the University of London. Excellent facilities are also provided for training in all branches of Domestic Science, Music and Art.

An examination for an Entrance Scholarship of the value of 30 Guineas a year is held in the School in February.

FEES, 130 GUINEAS.

For particulars and Prospectus apply to the Head Mistress.

CHURCH PRINTING.

For Church Printing of all kinds.—Church Reports, Programmes, Circulars, Cards, etc.

You should give me a trial. Work is good and charges are reasonable. : : :

EDWARD HODGETT,

REPORTER PRINTING WORKS, NEWRY.

Wires—"REPORTER, NEWRY." 'PHONE 92.

T. & J. M'ERVEL, Ltd.

Seed Merchants and Implement Agents
Feeding Stuffs. Artificial Manures.

Mowers, Reapers, Binders, Horse Rakes, Swathe Turners, Rick Lifters, Potato Diggers, Turnip Cutters, Chaff Cutters, Grinding Mills, Ploughs, Harrows, Cultivators, Horse Hoes, Threshing Sets, Churns, Boilers, Lawn Mowers, Garden Rollers, and every other requisite for the Farm.

40 VICTORIA SQUARE,

BELFAST.

Telephone 1407. Telegrams: "M'Ervel, Belfast.

CALL, WRITE, 'PHONE OR WIRE.

Printed by E. Hodgett, Margaret Street, Newry, for the "Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland." Copies may be obtained of Mr. Gilliland, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

LINDSEY PRESS PUBLICATIONS.

NEW BOOKS YOU SHOULD BUY.

Christianity and Sex Morality.
By E. G. Lee.

Science, Philosophy and Religion.
By W. L. Schroeder, M.A.

The Problem of Evil by G. J. Sparham.

A Short Life of Jesus by H. Harrold Johnson, B.A. Price 1/- each (by post 1/1.) These four books are in the series of 'Religion: its Modern Needs and Problems,' edited by R. V. Holt, M.A., .Litt. Sixteen different titles. Send for Prospectus with Synopses of the individual books.

The First Hundred Years of the Sunday School Association, 1833-1933, by Arnold Broadbent. Price 6d. (by post 7d).

Some Ancient Safeguards of Civilization by R. Travers Herford, B.A., D.D. (Essex Hall Lecture delivered May 4th, 1933. Price 1/-. (by post 1/1).

When Jesus Was Twelve. A modern mystery play for children. By Joyce Gow. Price 9d. (by post 10d).

Frances Power Cobbe—The Memorial address (biographical) delivered on the occasion of the death of MISS COBBE, by the late Dr. Estlin Carpenter, has been reprinted with photograph, and copies are now obtainable at 3d. each (by post 4d).

The Beliefs of a Unitarian—By Alfred Hall, M.A., B.D., President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Cloth bound 1/6 (by post 1/8). Paper covers 6d. (by post 7d.)

God be in My Head (Thoughts on the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit)—By John C. Ballantyne, M.A. Price 1/- (by post 1/2).

Send for our List of Sixpenny and Fourpenny

SEND FOR COMPLETE CATALOGUE.

THE LINDSEY PRESS, ESSEX HALL, 5, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

THE ULSTER UNITARIAN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

BOOK DEPOSITORY,

35 Rosemary Street, BELFAST.

THE PUBLICATIONS ADVERTISED ABOVE ARE STOCKED.

UNITARIAN AND GENERAL LITERATURE ON SALE.
BIBLES, HYMN BOOKS, SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOKS,
BOOKS SUITABLE FOR GIFTS AND PRIZES.

Copies of the Life of Rev. Alex. Gordon, M.A., by Dr. M'Lachlan, may be had at list price.

Any Book not in stock procured at shortest notice. Special Terms to Ministers and Sunday School Teachers.

TRACTS EXPOSITORY OF UNITARIAN PRINCIPLES FREE.

Open 9 to 6 p.m. Saturday, 9 to 1 p.m.

Agent in Charge—Mr. J. H. Cilliland.